(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the recent fall in the value of rupee is responsible for this increase; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to off set the increased price during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) There has been no cost and time over run during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 in relation to mining projects of Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Mines, excepting projects of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Mines relating to the Metal processing where the average cost over run during the period since 1993-94 till now has been 12.4% and the average time over run has been 17 months.

(b) and (c) Time over runs have been due to reasons like delay in supply of machinery and equipments by the contractors, industrial relation problems, internal resource constraints, etc. The fall in the value of rupee has also had an adverse effect on the cost of some of the projects.

(d) Better monitoring and re-allocation of resources have been adopted in the implementation of the project.

[Translation]

Accommodation for Telecom Employees

1770. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of quarters constructed for the employees of telecommunications during 1995;

(b) the number of quarters allotted during the above period;

(c) the percentage of quarters meant for employees of the telecommunications in Delhi;

(d) whether the Government fixed the target for construction of quarters for the 14 per cent employees of telecommunications by the end of 1992-93;

(e) if so, the extent to which the target achieved state-wise;

(f) the number of quarters constructed in Delhi during the above period, location-wise; and

(g) the efforts made by the Government for construction of more quarters for the employees of telecommunications?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) 2023 quarters were constructed during 1995-96 for the Telecom employees.

(b) The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) 100% of the quarters constructed by the field Units of the Deptt. of Telecom are meant for their employees. However, those staff working in the Ministry are entitled to get their quarters under the General Pool controlled by Dte. of Estates.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable in view of reply to (d) above.

(f) 53 quarters were constructed in Delhi during 1995-96 as Jhilmil Colony (Under NTR, N.Delhi) = 40 Nos.;

Rohini Sector-III (MTNL, N. Delhi) = 13 Nos.

(g) Deptt. is according highest priority and making vigorous efforts for construction of more qrs. for the employees of the communications.

[English]

Promotion of Tourism

1771. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Luring tourists via Internet" appearing in the daily Times of India dated June 29, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to develop more tourist spots in different parts of the country to allure foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure protection of foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) Information about tourist attractions in India are presently available through the home pages of India in the World Wide Web of INTERNET. These pages contain information about various aspects of India including physical features, people and polity, climate, flora and fauna, music and dance, cuisine, shopping facilities, etc. Advertisements are also issued on tourism events in India through a newspaper on Internet.

(c) The development of tourist spots is an ongoing process and is primarily the responsibility of the State/U.T. Governments. However, Central financial assistance is provided on the basis of specific proposals received from them, interse priorities and availability of funds.

(d) The State/Union Territory Governments are directly concerned with the security of residents and visitors as law and order is a State subject. However, the Central Department of Tourism has formulated guidelines for the benefit of travel agents, tour operators, tourist transport operators, guides, etc. who provides various services to the tourists.